

## [Interview with Vito Cacciola #34]

### INTERVIEW WITH VITO CACCIOLA

No. 34 Conn. [1938-9?]

I wish I had the oppurtun' to gain the good education. My head it is not brainless. It catch the knowledge quick.

I learn much by experience. I have many shining ideas, but I cannot express them good. With education I might have be a man of influence.

If I could have done so, I would have learn to be the priest or the doctor. These men do a most to make peoples happy.

The good cobbler he is a necessary. Can a girl dance with big [?] a holes in the soles like a this? She is a covered with shame at the party. But I fix them good. I make them bright like her eyes. Then she dance with a gayety like a this? Her courage it is reborn. She gets a admiration. Some boy he will say, "Maria, she is dance like feather in the breeze. She is pretty like a flower. She is sweet like a sugar."

The good shoes increase the joy in the heart.

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These shoes belong to the workman. He dig the sewer. He most work all day in the rain and the snow. It is too bad. The shoes they are cheap. He can afford no better. They The innersoles they are of paper. I tell him I most put inside some leather. I cannot nail the new soles to paper.

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In advance he pay me a dollar. He is a most honest man. I will fix them best. They will be strong and protect him from the sickness.

I get much happines happiness from my work. I have no time for the complaint. My heart it is light. I thank the blessed Lord for a chance to help peoples.

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Cacciola: Interview No. 34

This morning I hear knock on the door. [?] early. I was cook the coffee. But I let in the young lady what was wait for me.

What you think she say? She say, "Oh, Vito, I tell the policeman to arrest' my husband. He take him to jail. What will I do. What will happen to me?"

She cry many tears. I say, "Why you get your husband arrested?" She say, "He came home drunk. He is like crazy. He curse me. He beat me — see?"

Her arms was all cover with black bruises. And her eyes. I know this girl many years year's . She was the most beautiful child. Her brother practice music with me. She has nice mother and father. Her [?] husband he has abuse her before. So I beg her to stop the tears. I tell her she had done what is good. No longer can she keep the patience. I say the jail will make for her husband the lesson.

She is married only the short time. She run away with that scamp. When it happen I felt many doubts. Before she marry him he was no good. He learn from me the music. With him I had great trouble. He get drunk. He make fights. His heart it was black.

I no show her the boy' s sins. It would be without success. The girl with love she have no reasoning. This boy was so bad as the scarecrow. But did her eyes recognize it? No! When she look at him he seem to be [?] disguise.

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Suppose the girl with the sick heart look and see the scarecrow on the hill. Would she recognize the head of wood, the belly of grass? No! She would say, "There is the most handsome man. Oh, he look most grand!" Nothing will save her, except her papa spank and keep on her the sharp glance. [30?] [Interview 34?] " I wisha I had opportunity to gaina de good education. My head, it is not brainless. It catcha knowledge quickly. "That's righta, I learna much by experience. I hava many shining ideas, but I cannot expressa them well. With education I might hava become a man of influence. " If I coulda have done so, I would have learned to be de the priest or de the doctor. These men do / a most to maka peoples happy and in health. Well, now I is de cobbler, but does I maka regrets? I does not. De The good cobbler he is a necessity necessary . Looka here. Can a girl danca on shoes with biga holes in de the soles lika this? [She cannot?] [?] She is a covered with shame at de the party. But I fixa fix them good. I maka them brighta bright as like her eyes. Then she [?] dance with a gayiety gayety lika this. Her courage it is reborn. She geta gets admiration. Some boy he will saya to himself, " Marie, she is danca dance like feather in de the breeze, she is pretty lika like a flower, she is sweeta as sweet like a sugar. " Sure, Mr. Lovett, de The good shoes oftentimes increasea increase de the joy in de the heart. Also they preventa sickness and cheata de doctor.

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[31?]

"These shoes belonga belong to de the workman. He diga dig de the sewer. [In [?] the rain and [?] the snow [?] he must most works work all day.?] It is too bada bad. When de shoes hava holes it is dangerous. [?], they They are very cheapa shoes. He can afforda afford no better. See de The innersoles they are of paper. I tella tell him I must put inside some leather, because I cannot naila nail the new soles to paper. " In advance he pay [?] me a dollar. That wasa his request. He is a mosta honest man. I will fixa fix them best. They will be strong and protecta him from sickness. [?] I geta get much happiness from my work. I

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hava have no time to [?] complain complaint . Ifa de If the work it is sometimes heavy, my heart it is light. I thanka de thank the blessed Lord for a chance to helpa help peoples.”

. . . . . “ This morning I heara hear knock on de the door. It was early. I was cooka de cook the coffee, but I leta let in de the young woman lady what was waita wait for me. “ What you think she say ? [?] She say, “ Oh, Vito, I tella de tell the policeman to arresta arrest my husband. He taka take him

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[32?]

to jail. What will I doa [do?] [?] What will ahappen happen to me? “ “ Then she “She crya many tears. I saya say . “ Why did you geta get your husband arrested? “ She [saya?] say. “ He coma come home drunk. He is lika like crazy. He cursa curse me. He beata beat me — see [?] “ [??], her Her arms wasa was all cover-ed with black bruises. And Her eyes they were black also. [“?], I knowa know this girl many years. She was de the most beautiful child. Her brother practice music [witha?] with me. She has nica nice mother and father. [“?], her Her husband he has abus-ed abused her before. So I bega beg her to stopa stop de the tears. I tella tell her , she has done what is good. No longer can she keepa keep de the patience. I say that perhaps de the jail will maka make for her husband de the lesson.

[ “ She hada made is married only the short time. She runa run away with that scampa scamp. They were married some place in Maine two years ago. When it happen-ed, I felta felt many doubts. ?]

[ [“What? “That boy was a ?]. Before shea she marry [married?] him he wasa was no good. He wasa my music scholar also learn from me the music . With him I had greata great trouble. He gota got drunk then. He maka make fights. His heart it was blacka black. ?]

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[33?] “ How can I knowa why she gota married to him? Why does de girls lika angels marry boys lika devils? “Don'ta tease me. I cannot believe that all marriages was maka in Heaven. That would often be an insult to de Lord. “ Why didn't she recognize this crooker before? Why? I thinka that when de heart catcha that sickness, nam-ed love, it blinda de eyes. “ I did not showa to her de the boys boy's s sins, because it woulda would be without success. She woulda would get angry with me. De The girl with love she hava have no reasoning. “ I will tella you what I think about this. Have you seena de mens made of sticks, what de farmer puta in de garden? On them he puts olda clothes. In them he stuffa grass. When de gangster birds seea them, they is fill-ed with fear and fly away lika this. “ That's right — de scare-crow. This boy wasa was so bad as de the scarecrow. But did her eyes recognize it? No! When she looka look at him, he seema seem to be disgus-ed disgusted .

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[34?] “Well, suppose de the girl with sicka sick heart looka look and see de the scare-crow on that the hill [.] over there Would she recognize de recognize the head of wood, de the belly of grass? No! She woulda say, “There isa de is the most handsome man. Oh, he looka look most grand. I could love him.” Then she would sigh so, and crys, ‘I would like to hold him in my arms.’ Nothing will savea save her, except her papa spanka her hard spank and keepa keep on her de the sharp glance.” [stet?]

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[“Tella your daughter, Mary, when you visit de hospital, that I will praya for her tonight. I hope it will bringa to her help. Many times I hava pray-ed for sick peoples and they have been help-ed.”?] [?]

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